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(54) **A Retractable Rule Assembly, and a Blade Locking Structure**

(57) The invention provides a retractable rule assembly, comprising a housing assembly; a reel rotatably mounted in said housing assembly; an elongated blade formed of a ribbon of metal being wound on the reel, said elongated blade having measuring indicia formed on a concave side thereof; a coil spring formed of a ribbon of metal constructed to rotate said reel in said housing as-

sembly in a direction to wind up the elongated blade; and a blade holding assembly for holding the blade in a position of extension outwardly of said housing, said blade holding assembly comprising a resilient thumb engaging portion and a receiving region behind the thumb engaging portion to enable the thumb engaging portion to deform into the receiving region to absorb impact.

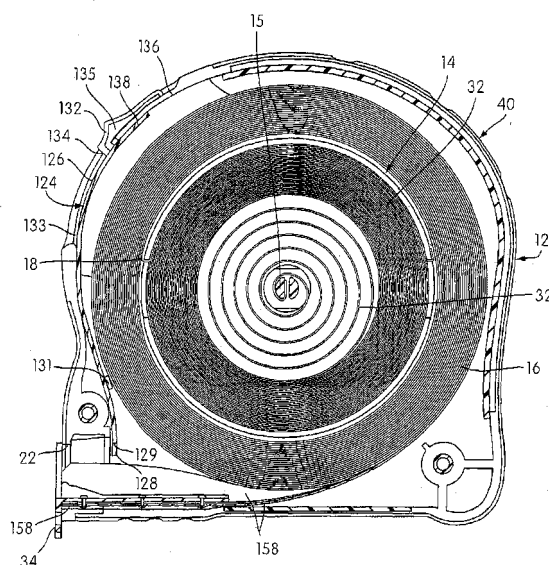


FIG. 4



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 07 11 7570

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A			
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 23 February 2012	Examiner Beyfuß, Martin
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 23 February 2012	Examiner Beyfuß, Martin
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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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